GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:526
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
INVESTMENT ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE
CHADA SURESH REDDY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invest more on research and development in agriculture to reduce import of edible oils; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (b) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (b) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 526 REGAR `INVESTMENT ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE` TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH APRIL, 2003 SABHA.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government proposes to raise allocation in the X Plan for research and development on oilseeds in the country.

The total investment in oilseed research funded by ICAR to its institutes and All India Coordinated Research Projects on nine oilseed crops (groundnut, soybean, sunflower, safflower, linseed, sesame and niger and castor) oilpalm and oil bearing trees is proposed to be raised from Rs. 14493.79 lakh in IX Plan to Rs. 24757.82 lakh in X Plan. For promotion of oil bearing trees, an allocation of Rs. 3000 lakh has been proposed in the X Plan through NOVOD Board compared to Rs. 2465 lakh in IX Plan. Oil palm is an other source of edible oil. The ICAR has established a National Research Cente on Oilpalm at Eluru (Andhra Pradesh). For oilpalm research the allocation is proposed to be raised from Rs. 790 lakh in IX Plan to Rs. 1145 lakh in X Plan.

Under Technology Mission on Oilseed and Pulses an allocation of Rs. 950 crore has been made in the X Plan compared to Rs. 808.63 crore provided in the IX Plan for promotion of oilseed and pulse production in the country.

Steps have been taken to develop multiple disease resistant varieties of different oilseed crop for enhancing and stabilizing production. Hybrids with higher yield potential are being developed in sunflower and safflower. A stable male sterility system has been identified in rapeseed-mustard which has increased the prospect of development of hybrid in this crop. The research in the area of biotechnology is proposed to be strengthened in the X Plan to exploit the benefit of this tool for development of varieties resistant to biotic and abiotic stresses. Steps are also being taken to improve quality of oil and oilmeal. For acceleration of quality seed production, it is proposed to strengthen breeder seed production program. As frontline demonstration is considered to be an effective mechanism for transfer of technology, it will continue to receive priority attention.